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"AKEGARASU HANA NO NUREGINU "

KABUKI PLAY IN ONE ACT

TO BE PRESENTED BY ENNOSUKE TROUPE

AT DAIICHI THEATRE DECEMBER, 1946.

SYNOPSIS:

Urasato, a courtesan, was deeply in love with the young man Tokijiro. The master of the brothel, however, tried to interrupt their love because Tokijiro was not rich. One day they were surprised by the master while having a secret interview, and were obliged to run away hand in hand.

Comment:

The scene which is to be presented this time is a kind of dancing play describing the atmosphere of the gay quarters. The authorities used to suppress the free presentation of this drama.

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SHOCHIKU

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T.C.D. J. 2033



The Scene of Urasato, the Courtesan.

One the Second Floor of the Brothel Yamanaya.

(The stage is arranged suitably for a private room of a courtesan. Drawers, wardrobes, closets etc. A screen on the right hand. A fire-place on the left, before which Shigeri, the maid sits poking the fire. Yukari, a child-attendant, is involved in reading. The curtain rises.)

Shigeri: Now, Yukari, you mustn't be so much given to reading, but be careful and tell me if anybody comes here.

Yukari: All right.

(Sodenoka, a young attendant, bustles into stage.)

Shigeri (frightened): Why, Sodenoka!

Sodenoka: Oh, I'm sorry I've been reckless.

(Pointing to the screen) There they are.

Shigeri: Be careful and never let it known.

Sode: Oh, never mind. Well, Midori has told me that old O-Kaya hinted something of the ~~ma~~ sort.

It will be an awkward business if she gets scent of it. Well, well, will you let me have a cup of tea?

Shigeri: Wait a minute, I'll just take it to the front for me.

(Zenko, the buffoon, appears into stage.)

Zenko: Shall I amuse you, Sodenoka?

Sode: Oh, have you been listening?

Zenko: I'm from Nanasato's room.

Sode: If you happen to meet. Sen-san, just tell him to

visit me very soon.

Zenko: I'm sorry but I won't.

Sode: Why?

Zenko: He told me that when he visited you the other day, you ate and drank so much and fell fast asleep as soon as you went into bed. He grumbled so much about it.

Sode: Such a scandal. Though I was deeply in love with him, I was disgusted by his continuous talk, and so I just feigned to be asleep.

Zenko: The pillow only knows the fact.

Sode: Well, Zenko, I've received a note from O-Ito.

It is written in such a facile pen that I can hardly read. Will you read it for me?

Zenko: She write in Master Hamacho's way. It's quite natural you should be unable to read it.

Shigeri: Really.

Zenko: Let me read it. (Opening the letter.)

"Joruri recitation, Kiyomoto Akegarasu Hana-no-nureginu.

Singers: ----- (eto.)

Shigeri: What a letter! It must be a mistake.

Zenko: Surely it is^s. It's a programme of Joruri recital.

Sode: Oh, no: it's a letter.

Zenko: It is a programme.

Sode: You're so obstinate.

Zenko: Well, "the beginning of Joruri ----."

Sode: Oh, you're not to announce -----.

Zenko: Oh, never check me.

(The two disappears from stage while quarrelling.

Shigeri prepares a cup of tea and hands it to Yukari.)

Shigeri: Come, Yukari, take this to Sodenoka.

Yukari: O.K.

(Yukari retires with a tray with the cup on it.

Kiyomoto reciters appear into stage.)

Kiyomoto: "Love, as well as snow, Is piled and piled up.

Urasato took fancy to Tokijiro

At the first sight.

And she tries to hide her love

From public notice."

(Urasato appears from within the screen and looks about herself. She pushes the screen a little aside
---- Tokijiro is seen sitting upon bed.)

Urasato: You must have felt very ill at ease, Tokijiro.

Tokijiro: No one left, Urasato?

Ura: I hope not.

Toki: How miserable I am, to have no place at all to put myself!

Ura: It's quite natural that you should feel much constrained. You suffer all this for me.
I'm ever so much obliged, Tokijiro.

Kiyomoto: "As she clings to him.
He draws her closer to himself.
And they drown themselves
In bitter tears."

Tokijiro: We shall never be contented how long we may remain together like this. The longer I stay, the more your situation will be awkward.

I am sorry to tell you that not only all my petitions have been rejected, but I am seriously in debt that I've got no face to see even my parents to say nothing of my friends. I have no hope at all to live any longer, and I have made up my mind to put an end to my life, though I know quite well that I am indiscrete to do so.

Kiyomoto: "Though I want very much

To accompany you,

How can I kill my own dear

With my own hands?

I just ask you

To pray for my future life."

Urasato: I say -----

Kiyomoto: "You're so cruel to say so,

It is my only hope.

To see you again before long.

Is it that you suggest

That all our promise is to come to naught?

It's very heartless of you

To intend such a thing

When I am quite ready

To die with ~~with~~ you."

"And she bursts into tears

Clinging to her dear lover."

"Just then, Kaya, the old attendant,

Appears calling."

- Kaya: Where are the children? Yukari!
Midori! Where are you, Madam Urasato?
(Tokijiro, frightened at O-Kaya's voice,
hides himself behind the screen.)
- Kaya: Why, Urasato, have you been here all the while
and didn't answer me when I've been calling for you?
- Ura: Why, O-Kaya, what are you calling me for?
- Kaya: Well, nothing. But --- who is the guest that
has stayed with you for a whole day?
- Urasato (surprised): Well, I've heard that he is a
son of some dignified man. He is here for the first
time.
- Kaya: Oh, you mustn't try to deceive me. You've taken
advantage of the porter Sosuke who is a new comer.
You made Tokijiro steal into this house. ~~It~~
I've been eavesdropping all the while in the passage.
And you've been talking and talking boldly without
knowing my presence. Well, well, come along;
the governor is calling for you.
(Tries to make Urasato accompany her.)
- Ura: It was very impertinent of me to have let Tokijiro
in, I've got reasons, though. I pray you, ^dcan't
tell the governor about this, please.
- Kaya: I never overlook people. How can I do my duty if I feel
pity for you courtesans?
- Ura: Oh, I pray you? O-Kaya.
- Kaya: Just come along.
(Tokijiro runs out of the screen.)

Tokijiro: Urasato!

Kaya: Oh, let me off. Come along, Urasato.

(They tustle with one another.)

Meantime O-Kaya falls unconscious, Tokijiro's elbow knocking accidentally on her side.)

Urasato (frightened): Dear me!

Tokijiro: Hurry up. Let's escape.

Ura: What do you mean?

Tokijiro: Let's just cross the roof and the hedge ----

Ura: And as long as we live ----.

Toki: Let's remain together how much we might be interrupted.

(They start in each other's arms across the roof and over the hedge. Snowy wind blows hard.)

Kiyomoto: "As they go on

With joy, with sorrow,

With fright and with fear,

The crow crows Kaai (Oh, so fond.)"

(The curtain falls when the ~~man~~ couple of lovers cut a showy pose.)
